

**NEW SOUTH WALES BRIDGE ASSOCIATION LIMITED (ACN 000 438 648)**  
**59<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

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held at Level 1, 162 Goulburn Street, Sydney

**Wednesday 8 December 2021**

**MINUTES**

**1. Opening**

Present: John Scudder, Agnes Levine, Richard Lock, Warren Lazer, Glenda Parmenter Catherine Chaffey, R Ward (Zoom), P Cox (Zoom), Rakesh Kumar (Zoom), Alan Bustany (Zoom) Dagmar Neumann, Warren Robinson, Pauline Gumby, John Bellingham, Jim Harvey, Martin Coote, Jane Biscoe, Wendy Mitchell, Colin Mitchell, Toni Zorn, Fraser Rew, Jake Andrew, Marcia Scudder, Wing Roberts, Richard Thode, Robert Krochmalik.

In attendance: J Baldacchino (SDJA Auditors via Zoom)

The Chairman declared that a quorum was present, including those who joined the meeting through ZOOM. The meeting opened at 5:34pm.

The NSWBA Chairman, John Scudder, welcomed members and Juanelle Baldacchino from SDJA Auditors, the new auditors for NSWBA.

**2. Apologies**

Apologies were noted from Alex Penklis.

**3. Confirmation of Minutes of Annual General Meeting 11 December 2020**

**Motion** (J Scudder /C Chaffey): *That the circulated minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting held on Wednesday 9 December 2020 be accepted as a true and accurate record of the proceedings of the meeting.*

Motion CARRIED.

**4. Business arising from the Minutes**

There was no business arising from the minutes.

**5. Correspondence**

There was no correspondence to report.

**6. Annual Report and Financial Statements**

The 2020-21 Annual Report had been circulated and posted on the NSWBA website prior to the meeting. The report included separate statements from the Chairman, Treasurer, Events Committee Chairman, State Committee Chairman, Assets Committee Chairman and Acting Chairman of the Operations Committee, in addition to the audited financial statements.

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The Chairman commended the newly appointed auditors, SDJA, for their efficiency in getting up to speed to complete the audit and incorporate the financial statements and the Committee Chairmen's contributions into the published Annual Report.

**Motion** (J Scudder / J Bellingham): *That the 2020-21 Annual Report be accepted.*

Motion CARRIED

## **7. Election of Council Chairman, Treasurer and Councillors**

### **7.1 Chairman**

A nomination had been received in respect of John Scudder for the position of Chairman. There were no other nominations, and he was declared elected.

### **7.2 Treasurer**

A nomination had been received in respect of Richard Lock for the position of Treasurer. There were no other nominations, and he was declared elected.

### **7.3 Six Ordinary Councillors**

Four nominations had been received for the six positions of Ordinary Councillor.

The nominees were: Warren Lazer, Agnes Levine, Dagmar Neumann and Rob Ward and they were declared elected.

Catherine Chaffey was nominated as an Ordinary Councillor from the floor (Proposer J Scudder / Seconder R Ward) and was declared elected.

In accordance with the Constitution, the remaining casual vacancy on Council can be filled by Council.

### **Zonal Councillors**

Nominations had been received for Zonal Councillors as follows:

Northern Zone:                      Glenda Parmenter

Glenda Parmenter was declared elected.

No nomination was received from Metropolitan Zone, Outer Metropolitan Zone, Southern Zone or Western Zone. In accordance with the Constitution, these positions can be filled by Council.

## **8. Appointment of Honorary Solicitor**

One nomination had been received for the position of Honorary Solicitor, that of Warren Robinson. Warren Robinson was declared elected.

## **9. Appointment of Auditor**

New auditors, SJDA, were appointed following the resignation of CBC auditors in October 2021.

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## **10. General Business**

The Chairman opened the floor to any questions or comments members wished to make.

Robert Krochmalik questioned whether the 2022 Interstate Team Selection would be conducted online with RealBridge. Warren Lazer, Chairman of the Events Committee, explained that a survey conducted in July 2021 of Monday night competitions found that 2:1 players were in favour of continuing RealBridge and not returning to F2F. Reasons included the problems associated with city traffic and distances to be travelled to get to Goulburn Street, late nights, especially in winter and general convenience. He noted that 20% of players were drawn from the regions, outside Sydney. No survey has been conducted since the end of lockdowns, but one is proposed for early 2022, possibly in March, acknowledging a possible change in opinion with the successful return to F2F bridge in daytime sessions.

Discussion followed re equity of access, especially for selection into the State Teams. It was noted that those in regional NSW or living far from the city have been able to play online in a more competitive field than just their local clubs or congresses.

Exploring the possibility of hybrid events (a combination of F2F and online) is a challenge. The Events Committee will consider options in the first half of 2022.

A discussion on the reasons for the failure of Zonal Councillors to nominate for 4/5 Zones was initiated by Alan Bustany. The focus on the NSWBA Director responsibilities, especially in relation to the finances associated with the running of a bridge club, has been a long-standing issue for Zonal Councillors, being Directors of the Company and accountable. Rakesh Kumar advised that he wished to continue his involvement on the State Committee and with regional and broader issues but did not wish to be accountable for any decisions or responsibilities associated with the running of a bridge club. State Committee Chairman, Glenda Parmenter, expressed her disappointment in Alan Bustany and Rakesh Kumar not standing again for Zonal Councillor, given the progress the State Committee has been making and seeking to address the problems.

Rob Ward noted that the issue has been apparent for over 10 years. He praised the current workings of the State Committee, as did the Chairman, John Scudder, who also acknowledged Glenda Parmenter's leadership of the State Committee with her enthusiasm for addressing the problems, with the assistance and engagement of the Regional Representatives. The Chairman undertook to have Council examine the Constitution and the role of Zonal Councillors.

## **11. Closure**

The Chairman thanked those who attended in person and virtually. The meeting was declared closed at 6.10pm.